

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain with a pharmaceutically acceptable additive.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the human recombinant HGF in which five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain is any one of the following;

(a) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 1 of Sequence Listing; or

(b) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence in which one to several amino acid(s) is/are deleted, substituted or added in SEQ ID NO: 1 of Sequence Listing, and having the HGF activity.

5. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a gene encoding a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain with a pharmaceutically acceptable additive.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Withdrawn) The composition according to claim 5, wherein the gene encoding a human recombinant HGF in which five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain is a gene comprising any one of the following DNAs;

(a) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence listing;

(b) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence in which one to several nucleotide(s) is/are deleted, substituted or added in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing, and encoding a protein having the HGF activity;

(c) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing under the stringent condition, and encodes a protein having the HGF activity; or

(d) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 70% or more homology with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing, and encoding a protein having the HGF activity.

9. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a skin ulcer, comprising administering to a mammal a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain.

10. (Withdrawn) A method for promoting neovascularization, comprising administering to a mammal a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The A method according to any one of claims 9 to 11, for promoting granulation formation in skin ulcer resulting from diabetes, comprising administering to a mammal a human recombinant HGF wherein the human recombinant HGF in which five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain is any one of the following;~~

(a) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 1 of Sequence Listing; or

~~(b) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence in which one to several amino acid(s) is/are deleted, substituted or added in SEQ ID NO: 1 of Sequence Listing, and having the HGF activity.~~

~~(b) a protein having at least 95% homology to SEQ ID NO: 1 and encodes a functional protein;~~

~~(c) a protein encoded by the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 2;~~

(d) a protein encoded by a nucleic acid hybridizing under highly stringent conditions to a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO: 2 and encoding a functional protein wherein the nucleic acid hybridizing under highly stringent conditions is identified by performing hybridization at about 65°C in the presence of about 0.7 to 1.0 M of sodium chloride using a filter with a colony or plaque-derived DNA immobilized thereon, and washing the filter at about 65°C using an SSC solution having about a 0.1 to 2-fold concentration, wherein a composition of SSC solution having a 1-fold concentration comprises 150 mM sodium chloride and 15 mM sodium citrate; and

(e) a protein encoded by a nucleic acid having at least 95% homology with the nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 and encoding a functional protein.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a skin ulcer, comprising administering to a mammal a gene encoding a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for promoting neovascularization, comprising administering to a mammal a gene encoding a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain.

15. (Withdrawn) A method for promoting granulation formation, comprising administering to a mammal a gene encoding a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the gene encoding a human recombinant HGF in which five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain is a gene comprising the following DNAs;

(a) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing;

(b) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence in which one to several nucleotide(s) is/are deleted, substituted or added in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing, and encoding a protein having the HGF activity;

(c) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing under the stringent condition, and encodes a protein having the HGF activity; or

(d) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 70% or more homology with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing, and encodes a protein having the HGF activity.

17. (Withdrawn) A method for making a pharmaceutical composition, comprising mixing a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain, with a pharmaceutically acceptable additive.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the human recombinant HGF in which five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain is any one of the following:

(a) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 1 of Sequence Listing; or

(b) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence in which one to several amino acid(s) is/are deleted, substituted or added in SEQ ID NO: 1 of Sequence Listing, and having the HGF activity.

21. (Withdrawn) A method of making a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises mixing a gene encoding a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain, with a pharmaceutically acceptable additive.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, wherein the gene encoding a human recombinant HGF in which five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain is a gene comprising any one of the following DNAs;

- (a) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing;
- (b) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence in which one to several nucleotide(s) is/are deleted, substituted or added in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing, and encoding a protein having the HGF activity;
- (c) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridizes with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing under the stringent condition, and encodes a protein having the HGF activity; or
- (d) a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence which has at least 70% or more homology with a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 of Sequence Listing, and encodes a protein having the HGF activity.

25. (Withdrawn) A sealing-type wound covering material, comprising a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain in combination with a sealing-type wound covering material.

26. (Withdrawn) A kit for treating a skin ulcer, comprising a composition containing a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain, and a sealing-type wound covering material which can absorb an exudate from an affected part of skin ulcer.

27. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a skin ulcer, comprising covering wound surface with a sealing-type wound covering material which can absorb an exudate from the affected part of skin ulcer, maintaining the affected part of skin ulcer under the wet environment, and placing

a human recombinant HGF wherein five amino acid residues are deleted in the first Kringle domain, in a sealing-type wound covering material, or between a sealing-type wound covering material and wound surface.